

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /109 W

----- 030561

R 211247Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6616

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

#4 /AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 289

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR, IQ

SUBJ: REPORTS OF OPEC MEETING IN BAGHDAD

REF: BAGHDAD 523

1. WE WONDER WHETHER RUMORS OF MEETING IN BAGHDAD REFER TO
OAPEC FPT OAPEC MEETING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE HELD IN
BAGHDAD IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

2. EMBOFF CALLED NIOC OPEC AFFAIRS CHIEF YOUSSEFIANI TO ASK
WHETHER HE KNEW OF ANY PLANNED OPEC MEETING IN BAGHDAD.
YOUSSEFIANI CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING OF ANY OPEC MEETINGS OTHER
THAN MAY 27 MINISTERIAL IN BALI AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION BOARD
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(ECB) AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS PREPARATORY TO MINISTERIAL.

NEVERTHESESS, TEHRAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES APRIL 21 CARRY
UPI DISPATCH REPORTING THAT OPEC MINISTERS HAVE BEGUN TO ARRIVE
IN GENEVA FOR MEETING "ON PRICING POLICY DIFFERENCES." WE DO
NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS IS TRUE. IF IT IS, YOUSSEFIANI MAY OR MAY
NOT HAVE KNOW OF IT. OBVIOUSLY OPEC OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY MINISTERS,
NOW TRYING TO BE SECRETIVE ABOUT THEIR MOVEMENTS. USG'S NEED
TO KNOW EXACT DATES AND TIMES OF SUCH MEETINGS WOULD NOT SEEM
COMMENSURATE WITH EMBASSIES' NEED TO AVOID ANNOYING CONTACTS
BY PRYING INTO WHAT PRESENTLY IS FELT (ATLEAST HERE) TO BE HIGHLY
SENSITIVE MATTER. WE INTEND TO ABSTAIN FROM ASKING GOI/NIOC
OFFICIALS ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT OPEC VENUES AND TIMES
UNTIL WE FEEL THEY HAVE CALMED DOWN. PRESENT REACTION HERE TO
SUCH QUESTIONS IS TO WONDER WHY USG WANTS TO KNOW: "IS CARLOS
ON OUR PAYROLL?"
HELMS

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NNN

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